

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Re-examination and favorable reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following comments are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 - 3, 8, 9, 11, 13, and 14 were rejected; claims 4 - 7, 10 and 12 were objected to, and claims 15 - 19 were allowed.

By the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 4. Thus, claim 1 and dependent claims 2, 3, and 5 - 7 are now allowable. Claims 8, 11, 13 and 14 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 15. Thus, these claims and claims which depend from them are now allowable. Still further, objected to claim 10 has been placed into independent form and is now allowable.

With regard to the objection to claim 9 and the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, these matters have been mooted by amending claim 9 to call for a gas distribution anode and by amending claim 13 to call for exhaust plumes.

The office action dated February 10, 2005, contained several rejections over prior art. These rejections have been mooted by the present amendments to the claims.

The instant application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe an additional amendment is needed to place the case in condition for allowance, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Appl. No. 10/726,398
Amdt. dated April 28, 2005
Reply to office action of Feb. 10, 2005

No fee is believed to be due as a result of this response.
Should the Director determine that a fee is due, he is hereby
authorized to charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 21-0279.

Respectfully submitted,

John B. McVey et al.

By 

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Date: April 28, 2005

I, Nicole Motzer, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on April 28, 2005.

